

## **Calls Increase for Science Focused Presidential Debate**

U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology

<http://science.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=2057> (1/16) Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) added his support to an effort underway aimed at underscoring the importance of science, education, research and innovation in the 2008 presidential race. Gordon joined a group of Nobel laureates, business leaders, university presidents and other Congressional leaders in support of NPR's "Science Debate 2008 <http://www.sciencedebate2008.com/>" – an effort underway to urge the candidates to participate in a debate focused solely on their plans for the scientific and technological future of the U.S.

"The [America Competes Act] legislation was a great step forward for U.S. efforts in science, technology, innovation and education – and it will yield results. But the debate on science and technology in this country must grow to be part of a national discussion on our future – and a presidential debate subject would put it front and center," concluded Gordon.

NACFAM NOTES: The focus on foundational scientific research and other inputs to innovation is important and has broad support. NACFAM would also recommend for any such debate to include the full ecosystem of innovation that includes the "black box" process of developing new technologies, strengthening entrepreneurship, and focusing on the demand side as well as the supply side of science, technology, and innovation.